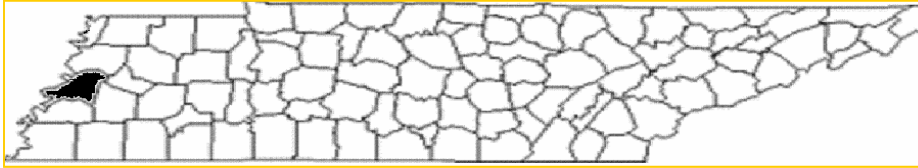


# The Status of Women in Lauderdale County



## STATUS OF WOMEN IN LAUDERDALE COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	61.40	77
Women's Annual Earnings	\$21,238	40
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	75.0%	26
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	40.9%	63
Female Unemployment Rate	8.4%	84
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	18.8%	94
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	73.88	92
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	17.3%	71
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	8.4%	72
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	64.2%	76
Female High School Dropout Rate	5.9%	35
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	90.1%	65
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	22.0%	85
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	17.2%	92
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	58.7	95

**Report Overview:** This publication on the Status of Women in Lauderdale County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## LAUDERDALE

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

### Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Lauderdale County tops only four other counties in the overall economic status of women in Tennessee.
- ◇ Women in the county have median annual earnings of \$21,238, about \$7,000 less annually than their male counterparts.
- ◇ The female labor force participation rate almost reaches 41 percent, but women still account for 48.5% of the county labor force.
- ◇ Of working women in Lauderdale County 18.8% are employed in managerial or professional occupations. This percentage ranks Lauderdale 94th among counties. 21.4% of all employed persons in the county work in such positions.

### Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Of all counties, Lauderdale has the highest teen pregnancy rate at 58.4 per 1,000 girls aged 10-19.
- ◇ Lauderdale ranks in the top 35 counties in only one category: female high school dropout rate (5.9%).
- ◇ Higher percentages of women than of men have high school diplomas and four-year college degrees in Lauderdale County. 64.2% of women and 62.3% of all county residents have a high school degree. 8.4% of women and 7.7% of all county residents have at least a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ Only 90.1% of women have any kind of health insurance coverage, and 22.0% of women earn incomes below the poverty level in the county.
- ◇ Though 16.2% of families live in poverty in the county, the percentage rises to 41.9% for families with a female householder and no husband present.
- ◇ Women-owned businesses represent 17.3% of all private businesses in Lauderdale County but they account for 0.6% of income and receipts from private firms in the county.
- ◇ About a quarter of elected county officials are women though women make up 48.1% of eligible voters in the county.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## LAUDERDALE

Lauderdale County

		Lauder- dale County	Rank of Lauderdale County	Highest Ranking County
<b>Earnings</b>	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$21,238	40	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	75.0%	26	Davidson: 82.1%
<b>Employment</b>	Female Labor Force Participa- tion Rate	40.9%	63	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	8.4%	84	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	18.8%	94	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	17.3%	71	Moore: 63.3%
<b>Education</b>	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	8.4%	72	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	64.2%	76	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	5.9%	35	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
<b>Lifestyles</b>	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	90.1%	65	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	22.0%	85	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	17.2%	92	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	58.7	95	Williamson: 1.2%

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Lauderdale County

*The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties* report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties